The Survey of Bath and District

The Magazine of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.13, June 2000

Editors: Mike Chapman

Elizabeth Holland



The Walcot and St.Michael's parish boundary marks on the wall of Ladymead House, taken from the site of the Cornwell spring.



Included in this issue;

- Did Hogarth Paint Susanna Chapman? Susan Sloman
- The Ken Biggs Architectural Archive Jacky Wibberley
- Cornwell, Walcot Street Allan Keevil

NEWS FROM THE SURVEY

The proposed pictorial booklet on the Guildhall has been deferred to a future date. We are now publishing our study of the Guildhall; unlike our other booklets it centres on the history of the building rather than a whole area.

We have received a grant for a further publication, for which we are grateful. It was intended to be used for the Sawclose area, but as that will appear in *Bath History* later this year, it is now planned to use it for a report on the springs and watercourses of Bath.

Our study of the Bimbery area has been completed. Mike spoke on 'Great Houses of Bimbery' at the lunchtime lecture last November, and a walk is planned for later on.

We are working towards bringing out a Bimbery booklet later this year. This will include two new maps, one an annotation of Palmer's development map of c.1804-1805, and the other a map created by the Survey of the area c.1770.

Our contribution to the exhibition on Walcot Street at the Museum of Bath at Work is now in place and we hope Friends will visit it. Mike was also asked to speak on Walcot Street in a series of lunchtime lectures at the Huntingdon Centre.

We have continued with our indexing tasks and have lately presented a volume of newspaper cuttings on Widcombe and Lyncombe to the Record Office (Accession 350, NCA (Newspaper Cuttings and Adverts)).



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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

The "lunchtime lecture" was held on 11 November 1999 in an upstairs room at the United Reformed Church Halls, a venue which the Friends found very comfortable and convenient. Lunch was served to a well-filled hall by June and the team with their customary expertise, and once again everyone's thanks go to them. A report on the two talks is given below by Priscilla Olver.

News of Dr.John Wroughton's book *An Unhappy Civil War*, and of the new work he has been commissioned to write, appears under Publications. John continues to deliver his historical lectures and recently spoke to Marshfield local history group, returning by popular request for the fourth time.

In November 1999 our Chairman, Ruth Haskins, was featured in two T.V. programmes on the Emperor of Ethiopia and his stay in Bath. Ruth appeared regally clad in what appeared to be gold lamé specially bought for the programme, but which she assures us was only an ordinary silk blouse such as she may be seen in on any occasion. Ruth has written a short description of these programmes which appears in this issue.

Don Lovell and John Brushfield are much involved with traffic problems in Widcombe and other concerns of the Widcombe Association. A note on the Association's Millennium Map which John, with Don, has been organising appears under City News.

Robin Lambert writes from Paris about her new book on which she is working. Her most recent article is mentioned under Publications. Allan Keevil has been assisting the Survey in its study of Walcot Street and has managed to indicate a definite site for the old spring called the Cornwell. His article on the Cornwell appears in this issue of the Survey.

The Friends welcome their new members, which include Susan Sloman, formerly Keeper at the Victoria Art Gallery. Susan has specialised in the life and work of Gainsborough. An article by her on Hogarth and the Chapman circle appears in this issue. Samantha Baber is curator of the Building of Bath Museum at the Huntingdon Centre, and has been busy promoting new ventures for the museum. We also welcome Mr.and Mrs.Hills, as well as Mrs.Sheila Edwards of the Bathwick Local History Society.

Great Houses of Bimbery and Recent Excavations in Bath

At the lunchtime meeting held on 11 November 1999, the Chairman, Ruth Haskins, welcomed the Friends, their guests and the speakers, Mike Chapman and Marek Lewcun. Mike used slides to illustrate his description of the "Great Houses of Bimbery", following a detailed study he and Elizabeth have made of the area within the Lower Borough Walls, Abbey Church House, St. John's Hospital, Bath Street and Stall Street, commissioned by the Spa Project Team. A full account of Abbey Church House, with its wealth of interest and the fascinating stories of its many owners throughout its long history appears in the *Survey* issues 9 & 10.

The present Gainsborough Building (now part of the City of Bath College) was formerly the RUH and incorporated a grand house built by Dr. Charles Bave around 1730. Nearby was Nowhere Lane and the site of the medieval leper bath. Also in Beau Street (originally known as Bell Tree Lane) was the 18th century Bell Tree House, which was purchased and used by Roman Catholics as their meeting place and chapel.

St.Catherine's Hospital - formerly known as the Black Alms - was a charity set up by the citizens of Bath and built before 1444, but was later pulled down and replaced by Manners in the 19th century. Adjacent is Bellott's Hospital - the precursor of the Mineral Water Hospital – founded in 1608 by Thomas Bellott, steward of Lord Burghley. Bath Street was designed by Baldwin in 1791 for shops as part of the City Improvements, with exact plans down to gratings, paving stones etc. This area was known to Jane Austen but more recently Friends will probably remember Shutters paint and decorating shop which had premises here. It is hoped that a booklet will be published about this area next year.

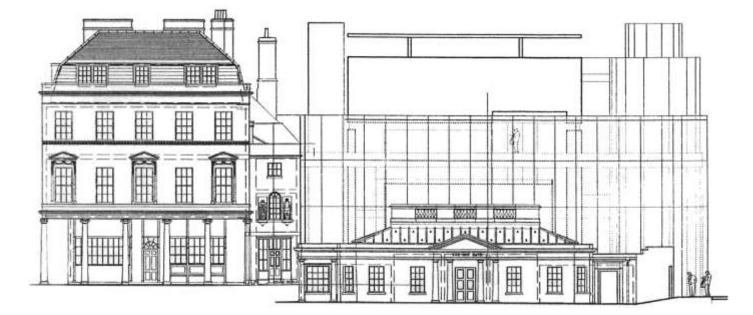
Marek then updated us on recent excavations in the city. About four months' work at Bellott's Hospital had produced a lot of information and Roman archaeology below floor level. Opposite, pre-Roman material, a very deep ditch and sections of Roman walls and roads have been excavated on the site of the former Beau Street baths, as well as material from the Decimus Burton bath.

Recent work along Walcot Street has revealed very important and exciting evidence of Roman urban occupation, confirming that the area in front of Hayes carpet shop was once the real centre of Aquae Sulis. Much archaeology was found in front of Aldridges Auction Rooms: a Roman potter's kiln, the first to be found in Bath, parts of walls from houses that fronted on Walcot Street with workshops behind and narrow passages in between, a piece of Roman wall plaster and a very well preserved wall still surviving to the remarkable height of 24 courses.

A great surprise of significant importance was the discovery of two coffins, one of them lead which contained a perfectly preserved body. This is being examined in London and no doubt will be the topic of much interest and discussion at a later date. An account of a walk in this area led by Marek in September 1999 appears in the **Survey** issue 12. Friends were told that this has been a very successful year indeed for archaeology and so much has been learned in the last year of this century. What exciting discoveries await the archaeologists in the early years of the next century?

Mike and Marek were warmly applauded by everyone and thanked by Ruth for once again giving such interesting lectures about the city's past history.

Priscilla Olver, November 1999



The Bimbery of the future. - An illustration from the Spa Project exhibition

CITY NEWS

Museum Awards

On 22 December 1999 the *Chronicle* reported that the Museums and Galleries Commission has awarded its Designated Status to both the Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room, and the Museum of Costume. Stephen Clews, curator of the Roman Baths and Pump Room, was quoted as saying that the museum was delighted, and that very few authorities had had more than one collection designated, out of the 2,500 or so museums nationwide. "We are considering schemes to improve access in a range of ways including electronic access for people across the world".

Airborne Visitors

Under the heading, "Now Roman Baths fit the bill for ducks", the Chronicle has continued the story of Arthur and Beatrice. The Cross Bath being closed to them this year, they returned to the Roman Baths instead, and obviously they value the advantages of central heating. Christine McClean, visitor services manager, said that it was wonderful for everyone to see them there, but she could not see anywhere safe where they could nest.

It is reported that mallard nest in high places, even in trees, and push the ducklings out of the nest when they are hatched. In Prior Park Buildings they certainly perch on the roof, and swoop down if they see anything like a piece of bread.

Spa Exhibition

An exhibition named "Waterfollies – Artists' responses to the return of the spa waters to Bath" is being held at the Hotbath Gallery, in what used to be called the Beau Street extension of Bath College. The entrance to the gallery faces Hot Bath Street.

The exhibition continues until 21 June and we hope Friends will be able to visit it. It is open weekdays from 9-4.45, and on Saturdays from 10-4. Admission is free. Some artists' talks were planned, with one on Saturday 10 June, details from 01225 328673. A number of different bodies

sponsored the display. Mike and Elizabeth attended the preview on 10 May, with Chairman Ruth Haskins, and naturally enjoyed it very much.

Widcombe Association's Millennium Map

This will record and illustrate recent as well as historic buildings; businesses which are or have been prominent in Widcornbe Ward - the whole area along to Brougham Hayes, not just the Conservation Area; famous people from Ralph Allen to Colin Jackson, the hurdler who is aiming for a Gold Medal at the Sydney Olympics, and notable events. It will also show geographical features so that a fold-up version could be used to explore the area.

A brochure has been designed by Dallorzo/Smith, a local professional graphics design company whose owners are Members of the Association, and distributed to Members and local businesses to obtain donations and sponsorship to pay for the design and production of the map(s). Donations from any resident, not just Members, of any amount are welcome. For a donation of £25 the donor will be given an unmounted copy of the map; larger donations are rewarded with mounted or framed copies.

Letters have been sent to some Members and businesses already, and others will be despatched soon, with brochures and sponsorship forms, but there is no need to wait for one, just contact Don Lovell, 16 Summerlays Court, Bath BA2 4HU (01225 428700) to indicate our interest.

Beckford's Tower

Volunteers from the Avon Group of British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) were working at Lansdown Cemetery, adjacent to Beckford's Tower in the last week in April. They were carefully revealing the original gravel pathway stretching between the Cemetery's Entrance Gateway and Beckford's Tower, which was discovered following archaeological investigation.

The project is part of the joint initiative between Beckford Tower Trust, B&NES Council and Walcot Parish to improve and enhance the appearance of Lansdown Cemetery after years of neglect. The works to the pathway follow the successful restoration and cleaning of the ornate Entrance Gateway last Autumn. Together the works will provide an enhanced access approach for visitors to the Cemetery and Beckford's Tower.

Beckford's Tower re-opens to the public later this summer following completion of a major restoration project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The total cost of the Tower Restoration (structural) is approximately £850,000, of which the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant provides £462,500, and the Beckford Tower Trust Appeal approximately £200,000.

Paragon School, Lyncombe Vale

In 1997 the Paragon School won a Watermark Award from Wessex Water, enabling it to commission a study of the former *jet d'eau* in its grounds in order to assess whether it could be restored. It has now received a further £500 award. John Brushfield reports that the fountain was in action last autumn. The £500 is presumably for improvements to the setting: the school is carrying on a number of projects to mark the millennium.

The Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group held a meeting at the school a year or two ago, which several of the Friends who are also members of the group attended. Springs rise in the grounds, and water that felt warm to the touch was running down one of the paths. Dr.Geoffrey Kellaway, consultant geologist to B&NES, subsequently visited the school with a member of the Environment Agency, but they reported that the water could not be classed as thermal.

Lyncombe Spa, as the Paragon site was once called, was included by Trevor Fawcett in his study of the pleasure gardens of Lyncombe and Widcombe, reported in an earlier issue of the **Survey**. According to the school, the house was bought for the Convent School in 1952 and for the Paragon School in 1983.

Claverton Village Survey

Residents of Claverton village have been planning a "Year 2000 Domesday Book", to be on display in St.Mary's Church, in a leatherbound volume. The Chronicle reported that the original Domesday Book recorded 100 residents in Claverton, approximately the same number as today. Each present household has contributed a brief history of their house to the new book, and a summary of its present occupants.

The Museum of Bath at Work (Bath Industrial Heritage Centre)

We hope Friends will be able to attend the opening of the exhibition on "Working Walcot", 6.30p.m. 15 June at the Museum.

The Museum has sent us a note about its change of name, as from April 2000. The decision to change the name was taken in an attempt to reflect the growing diversity of the museum's collections of the city's working heritage and also to encompass the full range of human work from "housework" to precision engineering. The need to place working life within the broader social history context has been an important determinant in this change of name and change of emphasis. The museum was set up in 1978 to confound traditional assumptions about the historical development of Bath and has long been famous for its collections of local industrial and social history. The governing body of the museum, the Bath Industrial Heritage Trust remains unchanged, as does the address.

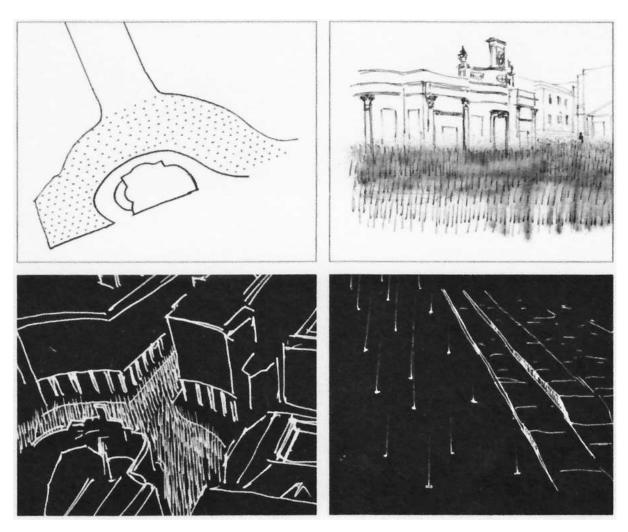
They have also sent us news of the wonderful acquisition of an original Horstmann car, which is on display in what is now known as the Horstmann Gallery, previously a sales point. In November Stuart was contacted by a relative of the Horstmann family Mr.Tim Dunmore whose uncle Mr.Bryan Merry had just died and had been in possession of the 1914 Horstmann Touring Car. The car had been kept in a completely weatherproofed garage (fitted with heating, etc.) and had not, as far as anyone knew, been out of the garage since 1980. The car was offered to the museum and Stuart accepted on its behalf.

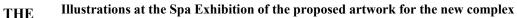
Mr.Dunmore had been aware of the museum, despite living in Hampshire, due to the collection of material in Mr.Merry's possession concerning the museum and its interest in the Horstmann family. A quantity of literature already stored at the museum has helped identify the components of the car and their function, date, etc. and more details about this amazing gift can be obtained by calling Stuart at the museum. This gift represents not only great confidence in the museum as a serious academic institution but also as one which can be relied upon to look after something of great historical and financial value. There could not be a better way to start the new century than with such an exhibit on permanent display!

In the same *Newsletter*, January 2000, the Museum reports the death of Kenneth Hudson, at the age of 83. With his book *Industrial Archaeology - an Introduction* (John Baker 1963) Kenneth Hudson was a pioneer in the subject, as he was also the leader in bringing industrial archaeology to Bath and the south-west. Kenneth was closely involved in saving the Bowler collection and was a founder trustee of the Bath Industrial History Trust.

The Museum continues to carry information on local history society programmes on the back page of its *Newsletter*. Details of its own programme of lunchtime lectures can also be obtained from the *Newsletter* (at the Central Library and the Record Office). "The 2 Stroke Internal Combustion

Engine" on 12 July is rather more their subject than ours, but Isaac Pitman (13 September), John Palmer and Coach Travel (11 October), and William Smith (8 November), are linked to the history of Bath. This year's programme is related to their quest for the "Millennium Man".





BATHWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A lot has been written and recorded of the Georgian history and architecture of Bathwick, but very little concerning periods pre- and post- this.

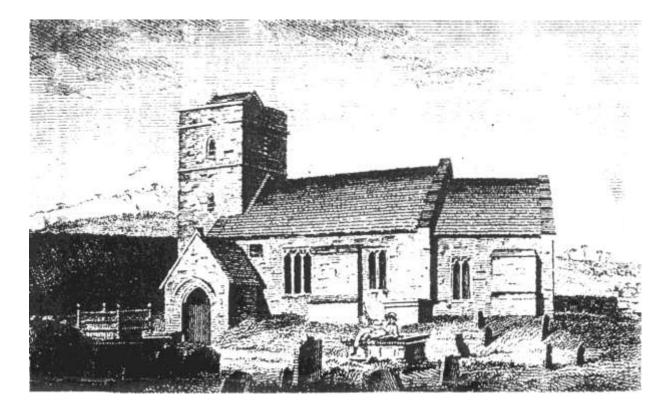
The Bathwick Local History Society started life on 18 May 1999 with the main aim of researching and recording for the future some of the missing bits, at the same time raising the awareness of our heritage, also involving and encouraging local people to share some of their memories. This is very important to us as Bathwick, like much of Bath, is changing rapidly and such a lot of its history has already disappeared.

Our meetings, now held on the second Monday in the month at 7.30p.m. in St.Mary's Church Hall, have been well attended and support is increasing. Current membership stands at about 40 plus nonmembers and visitors. We have had some excellent speakers. Stuart Burroughs gave us "The Archaeology of Industry in Bathwick", Colin Maggs spoke on "The Railway in Bathwick", and Michael Rowe gave us an extra special illustrated talk on Georgian Deeds, and the Bathwick Estate. We started the year 2000 with "The Quest for the Manor", by Terry Hardick. Terry is one of our members, and is currently researching the original village of Bathwick and the position of the buildings within it. A fascinating subject, and as Terry said "....a bit like the Loch Ness Monster, to preserve the excitement and mystery, you secretly hope you don't find it!"

Bathwick (Wyche, Whych or Wicke) signifies a village or town near Bath. For centuries this is what it was. The original village was a line of dwellings stretching along part of what is now a well-known and well-worn thorough fare - Bathwick Street.

The natural level of this village can still be seen in the old churchyard adjoining St.John's Church. The old church, dedicated to St.Mary, was about 64 feet long and 17 feet wide. It stood near to where St.John's is today, and was pulled down in around 1818. The materials were used to build the Mortuary Chapel that now stands as a ruin on the corner of Henrietta Road/Bathwick Street.

Our meetings are well advertised, and all are welcome. For further details telephone 463902. Sheila Edwards, March 2000



THE BATHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall.

The Society has enjoyed a variety of talks during the past year, from "Black Diamonds of Wales" (a talk by Kelvin Thomas on the history of family's firm "Bathampton Coal Merchants") to "St Paul's Cathedral", and from William Beckford to "Eyes on the World" (Bath Eye Infirmary). The year ended with a Christmas Get-together to start the festivities when members were entertained by the "Sulis Singers" with song and verse and concluded with supper and mulled wine.

The February meeting was titled "Behind the Facade", with Mary Stacey, from B&NES Built Heritage and Mike Chapman. Sadly Mary had to withdraw due to a commitment in Laos. (Rumour has it to repair and date a mud hut!). So Mike, in his inevitably professional way took the helm and provided a very interesting evening on the dating of historic buildings and a recent project undertaken at Newton St.Loe.

Some of us have probably been missing a stroll along the Kennet and Avon Canal to the George at Bathampton during recent months, so the committee felt it would be nice to have a **Old St.Mary's Church, Bathwick**. representative from Inland Waterways along to the March meeting to explain all about what has been taking place. This was well attended by members and local people. It will, as we have already seen from the previously refurbished stretch of the canal towards Claverton, soon be back to its natural look when the vegetation and wild life takes over, the fields adjacent no longer becoming boggy from the many leaks endured in past years.

"Around the Houses", the title of our April talk, was taken from one of the village folk, who, whenever talking about "So and So" would refer to them as "Oh, they lived around the houses". The talk was nothing to do with "So and So", or those particular houses (!) but the Survey of some of the Historic Properties in the Village that the Society is undertaking for its Millennium Project.

This followed on from Mike's "Behind the Facade" in that for the Society's Millennium Project we shall be undertaking a Survey in the Village as a follow-on from the work already undertaken at Newton St.Loe and at Stanton Prior last summer under B&NES' scheme for the study of "Vernacular Buildings" within the Council area. Much is known about what was going on in the City of Bath over the centuries but little is known about the rural areas. It is this gap that the project seeks to fill. Already several turreted staircases have been found - none of which are in evidence within the City; and in one house a wall, some 8 feet thick, unknown to the owners, was discovered hiding a fireplace and bread oven. At another property an early "scratch" dial was found inserted into a side wall (upside down) together with carved stone which was similar to that found at Keynsham Abbey! Who knows what Bathampton will yield - certainly there is at least one turreted staircase!

The majority of the buildings in the village are fairly modern, only dating back to the 19th century but there are a few which can be traced back to the 17th century, or maybe earlier, and it is these properties and those that appear up to the Tithe Map of 1845 on which the project will focus. "Around the Houses" centred on experiences drawn from work already done elsewhere and an initial "Pilot" survey already carried out last year on Holcombe Farm and supporting background information that has been researched. And, most importantly, how we are going to set about the task!

The actual survey started in April and goes on to late summer, resuming in 2001. From a series of exact measurements plans will be drawn to show thicknesses of walls, cross sections and elevations

from which more accurate dating can be deduced on the various parts of the building. Two of our members have been in "training" last summer at Stanton Prior, and under the guidance of Mary Stacey (Built Heritage) and your own most knowledgeable Mike Chapman it is hoped that the survey will prove as interesting and the work as enjoyable as the last two years'.

However, the project will not stop at the "plan" and "dating" stage! At the May meeting "Stepping out into Research" members were introduced to some of the Society's archives, given pointers on how to access archive material and what can be found from such research. Taking several projects they spent time looking at the Survey of Hampton Manor, 1745, the Tithe Map of 1845, their Schedules, copies of the Land Tax, Census Returns and Street Directories in order to create their own "original" research, in the hope that some will then go on and produce more factual material regarding the buildings surveyed.

In a much lighter vein Jim Cantello will be giving us his version of "A Cooper's View of Georgian Bath" at our June meeting.

Like a lot of Associations and Societies we continue to find it difficult to form a full committee and would like to think our AGM in July might help to resolve this! Whether or not, the meeting will conclude with several short talks entitled "A Bathampton Who's Who" - introductions to the people behind names associated with the village.

One of our Committee members has produced a Logo for the Society in this last year of the Millennium, depicting some of the village's name changes

Arthur Green, March 2000



DISTRICT NEWS

B&NES Lunchtime Lectures, Bath Guildhall

The Built Heritage Group of B&NES has arranged a series of lunchtime lectures on the historic environment. In May Jacky Wilkinson spoke on "Statutory Listing", and also in May Bob Sydes on "Archaeology and the Historic Environment". On 7 June David McLaughlin dealt with pollution and stone decay.

On 21 June Mary Stacey, Built Heritage Manager, will be lecturing on "Discovering the Rural Heritage of B&NES". Lectures take place from 12.30-1.30 p.m. and are free. Further information can be had from Rachel Le Huray, Built Heritage, 01225 477694.

B&NES Local Plan Issues Report and Local Transport Plan

Over 4,500 comments from around 1,800 people have been received on these and collated into Schedule 1, which is available in local libraries throughout the area and also in Council offices, or on the Council's website at www. bathnes.gov.uk. Extracts on particular areas are also available from the Planning Policy Team at Trimbridge House, Bath. It is anticipated that a second schedule (Schedule 2) will be published in June/July 2000, setting out the comments and indicating the overall direction and content of the forthcoming Local Plan. If you have any queries about the Local Plan, please contact Gill Clarke or a member of the Planning Policy team. For queries on the Local Transport Plan, please contact Mike Finch at Transport Access and Waste Management, Riverside, Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1LA, tel. 01225 477601, fax 01225 394335, email: mike_finch@bathnes.gov.uk.

B&NES Record Office

Colin Johnston has reported on the successful joint bid by B&NES (Archives), North Somerset Council (Libraries), and Somerset County Council (Archives), to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to create a computerised database of their combined catalogues which would be available on the Internet and at selected public outlets. The grant of £227,000 in total over a three-year period would be supplemented by funding from the three local authorities to bring the amount up to the £300,000 necessary for the completion of the work. A trained archivist was to be appointed for two years to catalogue unlisted material at Bath; and other staff employed at Somerset Record Office. An integral part of the project would be the invaluable contribution made by volunteer groups and individuals. One of the conditions attached to the grant was the formulation of an archive strategy, with its provisions to be implemented within five years. Colin thanks those who have contributed to the success of the bid through their letters of support.

The "archive strategy" mentioned above involves bringing the Record Office up to "national standards". It is well known that B&NES (formerly Bath) Record Office does not have the staff and accommodation expected of a famous city, let alone a whole district such as B&NES.

The Survey of Old Bath is not a pressure group. It exists to carry out research in urban studies, especially the housing and lives of the citizens of Old Bath, seem particularly from the point of view of topography. Our constitution forbids us to engage in campaigns on questions of public policy, and we cannot actually mount a campaign for an extended Record Office. Individual members of the Friends will decide for themselves what kind of archive strategy they would like B&NES to implement, and whether they individually intend to take any steps in the matter.

Keynsham Heritage Trust

From time to time we have carried reports on Keynsham and its historic heritage. From 8 to 13 May the Trust mounted an exhibition of artefacts in St.John the Baptist Church and Church Hall, through the generosity of the Rector and Churchwardens, entitled "Keynsham Heritage 2000". With the notice of this exhibition the Trust forwarded the information reproduced below, summing up some of the material on Keynsham such as we have already been able to carry.

Keynsham is fortunate to have a collection of priceless material of international importance in archaeology, history and art. Strictly speaking it is two distinct collections: the oldest artefacts are Roman, including nine panels of tessellated (mosaic) pavements from a large villa, one of the largest Roman villas in England, under the present cemetery, and other finds from a smaller villa revealed in 1924 when the Fry's Chocolate Factory was constructed at Somerdale.

The more recent, mediaeval artefacts derived from Keynsham Abbey. The abbey, developed from an earlier Saxon minster, was powerful, wealthy, and of a scale equalling that of Glastonbury. Following

dissolution in 1539 the fabric was dispersed around the district and the site was later levelled. The cutting of the Keynsham by-pass and more recent excavations by a dedicated band of local archaeologists have revealed remarkable finds of Saxon and Norman sculpture.

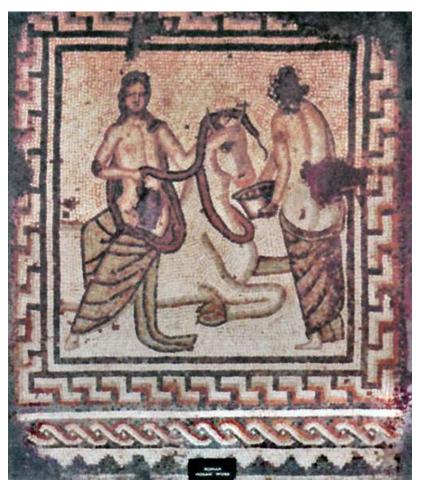
For some 60 years the smaller elements of the Roman collection were housed in the lodge at Somerdale. The large sections of mosaic pavement were displayed in the entrance to Fry Hall. In 1988, following corporate changes it was no longer possible for the artefacts to be housed at Somerdale and they reverted to their then owners, Wansdyke District Council.

The Keynsham Heritage Trust was established following a meeting between the Civic and Local History Societies, with the objective of preserving the collection and making proper provision for public display. The artefacts have, since their removal from Somerdale, been stored in the basement of the Town Hall. This site is not suitable for public access or display purposes, but it has enabled the Trust to catalogue, preserve, and care for the collection. The ultimate objective, namely a museum for the permanent display of the Keynsham Collection, has yet to be realised.

Southstoke Millennium Exhibition

On 27-29 May an exhibition was held in Southstoke village hall charting 2000 years of parish history. Southstoke historians have made a number of discoveries over the years, including Roman coffins and artefacts and the village's original Saxon charter.

They have also found a Civil War cannon ball and a proposed Second World War underground ammunition shelter. As well as general maps and photographs, the exhibition included a panel on the geologist William Smith, and material on the Rev.John Skinner.



One of the mosaics (depicting Europa and the Bull) on show at the "Keynsham Heritage

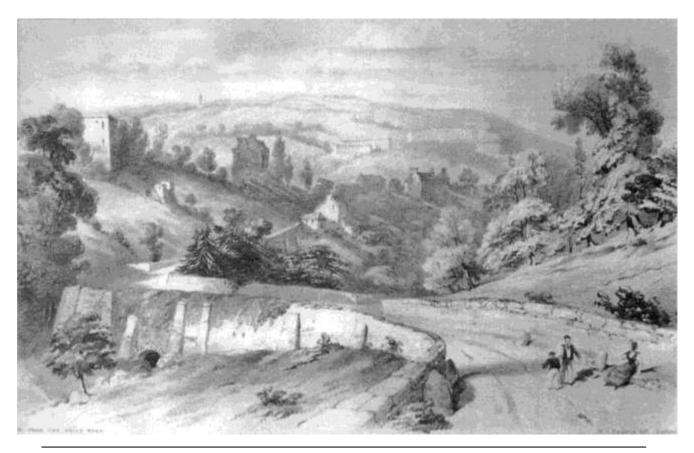
PUBLICATIONS

Dr.John Wroughton's publication, *An Unhappy Civil War*, reported in the *Survey* No.12, is now reprinting, after steady demand especially in bookshops in the three counties dealt with, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. John Wroughton has now been commissioned to write a history of Coltston's Collegiate School in Bristol. This was founded by William Colston, merchant, in 1710, and records are available in the Merchants' Hall in Bristol.

Robin Lambert writes: "In this year's *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, I have an article on the 1925 Bath Corporation Act. I will send an offprint to Colin Johnston at the Bath Archives. Any criticism gratefully received." The *Survey* will be glad to hear from any planners amongst the Friends who would like to comment on the contents of this article. We published a summary of Robin's thesis on *Protecting the Architectural Heritage of Bath* in the *Survey* No.11, June 1999, where it aroused much interest. Robin will also have an article in *Bath History* later this year, as Mike and Elizabeth will as well.

Mike Chapman is now editor of the journal of the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society (BIAS). The latest issue, the first edited by him, carries an article by Mike entitled "Mystery Aqueduct" which deals with the 18th century viaduct in Entry Hill.

In November 1999 David and Jonathan Falconer brought out *A Century of Bath*, part of a series commissioned by W.H.Smith on English cities. The volume contained hundreds of photographs, many of them from the archives of the *Chronicle*.



LETTERS PAGE

Letters Editor: Leslie Holt

Bath, 7 March 2000

Dear Leslie,

We had a very interesting talk at the Widcombe & Lyncombe History Study Group by Peggy Ricketts about the RSPCA Clinic in Lyncombe Place in 1938. In it there was mention of two animal charities in Widcombe - the Bath & Somersetshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSSPCA) and the Bath Society for the Promotion of Kindness to Animals (BSPKA) - suggesting negative and positive approaches to the treatment of animals. There was also a People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) somewhere in Bath. The BSKPA had a Cats and Dogs Home somewhere in Greenway Lane.

Do any Members of the Survey know anything about these charities which amalgamated in 1937/38 to form the Bath Branch of the RSPCA, which set up the Claverton Down site as boarding kennels for

Entry Hill Viaduct – 'Bath from the Wells Road' c.1839 by W.N.Hardwick (Bath Central Library)

dogs? This is now the RSPCA Sanctuary for dogs and cats. Peggy was only a child in 1938 and does not know much about them although she has tried to research their history recently without much success.

It would be interesting to assemble the stories of all the animal charities in Bath and find out how far back they go. Was the notice on the spring opposite Magdalen Chapel in Holloway put up by one?

If anyone can help with any information, Peggy and I will try to write up the history of them.

Yours sincerely, Donald Lovell

Replies to Donald's request for information can be sent either direct to him, or to me for inclusion in the "Letters Page". With regard to the "Notice on the Spring" mentioned in the penultimate paragraph, this apparently took the form of a poem, as follows.

A man of kindness to his brute is kind But brutal actions show a brutal mind. Remember, he who made thee, made the brute; He gave thee power of speech, but formed him mute. He can't complain; but God's all seeing eye Beholds thy cruelty and hears his cry. He was designed thy servant not thy drudge; Remember, his creator is thy judge. (Reproduced by courtesy of Mr.Bruce Crofts, from his book *The Forgotten Year - News from Bath in 1882.*)

Our second letter is from Peter Davenport, a Member of the Friends. He refers to his article on page 18 of our magazine No.12 (November 1999):

Bath, 25 March 2000

Dear Mr.Holt

Elizabeth suggested I send in this correction to you, as in my article on the "Celtic Baths", the more up to date translation of the Chichester inscription was not used. It is as follows below:

Translation and restoration of the Chichester inscription mentioning Cogidubnus or Togidubnus (the initial letter is missing from the original):

TO NEPTUNE AND MINERVA FOR THE WELFARE OF THE DIVINE HOUSE BY THE AUTHORITY OF TIBERIUS CLAUDIUS TOGIDUBNUS* GREAT KING OF THE BRITONS THE GUILD OF SMITHS AND ITS ASSOCIATED MEMBERS GAVE THIS TEMPLE FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES [.....]ENS SON OF PUDENTINUS GAVE THE LAND

*the preferred version of his name by most scholars now.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Davenport

Director of excavations, Bath Archaeological Trust

Our third letter is from another member, Sheila Edwards.Bath, 5 May 2000:

Dear Leslie,

I am currently researching the story of the murder of Ruth Biggs. On September 14th 1748 at Odd Down, Richard Biggs was hung for the murder of his wife Ruth. I would like to ask if anyone has the answers to the following questions.

- 1) Where exactly at Odd Down were these Gallows sited?
- 2) How long were they standing, and when did they cease to be used?
- 3) Does anyone know of anybody else hung there, for example highwaymen etc.
- 4) What happened to the Gallows?

Any details regarding the above gladly received. Telephone 463902

Yours sincerely, Sheila Edwards.

Finally we have received 2 letters from Ms.Robin Lambert, a Member who lives in Paris. She is an author who writes on the history of Bath and an article on planning by her appeared in the last issue. Among other matters, her letters deal with 2 subjects –

a) Seymour Street, Bath. - This street originally had two sides, the western side being demolished to build Green Park Station. The east side was demolished because of the plan for a ring-road

proposed by Abercrombie in 1945, although the Ministry of Works had been prepared to pay for restoration. The M.O.W. had actually got to the stage of arranging a contract for restoration when they heard about the Abercrombie plan, which included its demolition. This is why funds were not made available for the M.O.W. contract. The Abercrombie ring-road was never built, but Seymour Street became run-down as no restoration work was done, and was demolished in the mid-1950's.

b) Robin is wondering about the possibility of obtaining a grant to establish a website, or at least make a collection or CD-rom of images of Bath. These could be useful for research and for illustrations of articles, books etc. She would be happy to lend her post card collection, or any photos, for this purpose. She knows someone who deals in old post cards who has a website - it is very convenient to see what is available, then order what is required. It would be valuable to have a large collection with source details available, as with James Lees-Milne's book *Images of Bath*.

Does anyone know of any relevant work which has already been done, or is planned?

Please keep your letters flowing in. However short, they may well be of considerable interest to us all.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Jesse Window, Bath Abbey

Jesse Windows show the ancestry of Christ, a popular subject for centuries. Jesse, the father of David, is usually portrayed sleeping, with tendrils linking his descendants to Christ, showing how the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New Testament. Bath Abbey's window, in the south transept, celebrates the return to health of the future Edward VII. It was designed by Clayton and Bell, costing about £1,000, in 1873.

The generations are arranged in the main twenty-eight lights. David and Solomon are shown immediately above the reclining figure of Jesse, and the Virgin and Child occupy the top centre light. All the figures are identified by name. The scene below depicts the recovery of King Hezekiah, who is shown with a sundial. (God set back the shadow of the sun by 10° to give the king another fifteen years of life.) Beside him is Isaiah and beyond are the courtiers with the plaister of figs. The smaller lights above the genealogy depict the twelve sons of Jacob, also individually named.

The lowest lights, somewhat obscured by the Waller tomb, show the arms of the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Queen Victoria, and the Princess of Wales. The dedication reads: "To the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of the restoration to health of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, 1872. This window is placed by Mary Rowland Russell Elliott, daughter of the late Robert Scott of this City who died 1868."

Hazel Symons, March 2000

Robin Lambert's reference to Seymour Street involves a spot we have not previously investigated. Seymour Street was a short stretch of Georgian housing between Green Park and Charles Street, one side of which was replaced by the Midland railway station, now known as Green Park station. After the blitz, the other eventually became the Salvation Army hostel. A photograph of Green Park East shows impressive housing like that of Green Park West. In the modern age, the locality is a problem because of the view of the derelict industrial sites across the river.

Has anyone any memories or interesting photographs of this area? It lies in what used to be Kingsmead. Like Norfolk Crescent, its history tends to be neglected.

"House Style"

Now that we receive items from a number of different contributors, we have drawn up some "Notes for Contributors" and will be glad to give a copy to anyone wishing to send in an item. Like most publications, we aim at a definite format. For example we use double quote marks, because we feel that with a quote within a quote, double quote marks placed within single ones look very ugly. Except for acronyms, abbreviations which have become words like SWEB, we keep the full stops after abbreviations. This saves thinking out how to space items - for instance, "page 32 and following pages" becomes pp.32 ff., instead of our having to debate "pp32ff" and "pp 32 ff" and all the other possible combinations. And so on...

THIS FAMOUS CITY: THE STORY OF THE CHAPMANS OF BATH

THE FAMILIES OF THE SADDLER MAYORS

Elizabeth Holland

I have been very fortunate in the help received from others in the task of tracing the families of the Chapmans of the Hart, from whom we are descended. First of all Captain John James Chapman created a genealogy, at a time when to apply to the Heralds was less expensive than it is now. Next, our cousins overseas supplied the memoirs and letters on which we have been drawing, together with Ludwig Backer's surprise gift to the city of John James' own personal volume of Calotypes of Bath.

The Chapmans of the Hart were descended from Richard the clothier, Mayor and M.P. The descendants of his brother Peter, first restorer of the Abbey and landlord of the Beare Inn, have only been traced a short distance. After about three or four generations, they seem to fade out of the city's records. Naturally many in the Chapman family have wished to be descended from Peter, but the claim can never be substantiated - somewhere the Johns and Walters and Williams have always become confused.....

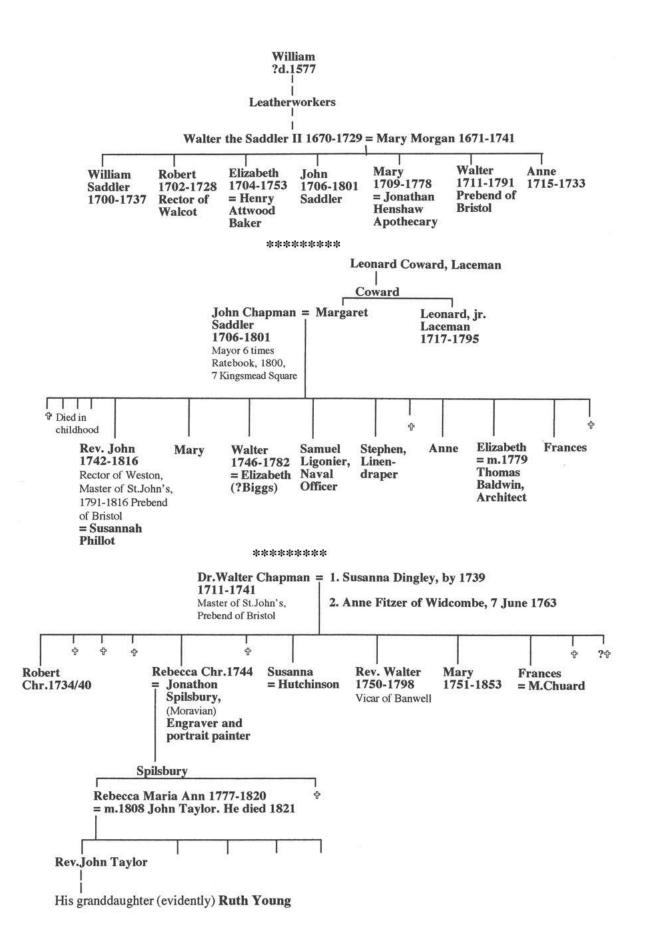
The third branch of the Chapman family of Bath, the leatherworkers, appear to be descended from Richard and Peter's brother William. It has been possible to make a more or less complete genealogy of the leatherworkers. Ruth Young belonged to this branch, though she mistakenly thought her ancestor was Peter. When writing to congratulate Ruth on her little book, Sarah Becker said, "I am a direct descendant from Richard Chapman, as you evidently are from Peter, his brother", (see the *Survey* 8, p.21) but with Ruth Young it was once again an error.

From time to time, as with Ruth Young, descendants of the leatherworkers do come forward, and perhaps one has been hoping that they also will supply fascinating memoirs of their family, apart from those published by Ruth Young, and also that they might perhaps write up this branch of the family themselves! In the meantime, however, the genealogy does exist, and has existed for many years, and one was glad to lend part of it to Susan Sloman, to assist her in her quest for the lost Hogarth. When there is time, it will be copied out neatly and presented to the Record Office, as a companion to the one already there, presented in 1989 (see Allan Keevil, footnote 51). Some selections follow below.

John Chapman the saddler is entered in the ratebooks for 7 Kingsmead Square. His interest in it seems to have come through his daughter, by a legacy from the Cowards. David Brain very kindly showed me round it once: it possessed particularly ornate plasterwork.

Trevor Fawcett unearthed a story about John's elder brother William, who died comparatively young. He purchased some pistols in Gloucester, and repaired to a coffee shop with a friend. The friend picked up one of the pistols and accidentally shot William with it. Exclaiming, "I am a dead man!", William staggered into the street, where he died.

With all their connections, such as Susan describes, there is plenty that would make a fascinating history of this group of people. There is earlier material, the shoemaker that cut his daughter-in-law off with a shilling, the household inventory of the glover and bagmaker who died (obviously of plague) in the house at the corner of Stall Street and Westgate Street – it only awaits someone from the leatherworkers branch with enough filial piety to attempt the task. Family history should not solely consist of assembling as many ancestral names as possible – it is also worthwhile setting out to recreate people's lives.



"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AN EMPEROR"

Directed and produced by Shawn Naphtali Sober

Ruth Haskins

This was shown by HTV as two half-hour programmes on Sunday evenings last November. The narrator was the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. I became involved as one of the last local citizens in personal contact with the household, in 1937. Aged 16, I spent a summer as children's nurse to the Emperor's small son Silahe Selassie, aged 6, three grand-daughters, two grandsons and a boy priest.

The nursery governess took the higher level subjects, my job was to teach them English customs, nursery songs, English folk-songs as sung in schools, read classic books as used by schools, and help the younger children with simple maths, writing, spelling and reading. I worked from 8.30 a.m.-7.30 p.m. daily, and 8.30 till 3 p.m. on Saturday and 12.30-7.30 on Sunday. My Mother refused to allow me to sleep on the premises.

The Emperor was to be treated with great respect at all times. If he approached me, I had to stop and bow low, and not look up until he spoke to me or passed me by. If in a room with him, I had to back out and never turn my back on him. This quickly became second nature to me. The children spoke excellent English and were delightful; the youngest was three years old and the eldest twelve.

It was a happy time for me and there are many stories and amusing events that happened that summer. The story was written down some years ago and will be published after my demise.

In the programme I stressed that it was a very private and peaceful household; they kept mostly to the grounds, although the Emperor sometimes took walks along Newbridge Hill early in the morning. On one occasion when I was hurrying along Newbridge Hill just before 8.30 a.m., I saw the Emperor and his attendants approaching. When he got near, I bowed low, and the hourly bus to Bristol passed by and slowed down, and when I looked up my face was scarlet, much to the passengers' amusement.

The Emperor was of the Coptic faith, one of the earliest Christian churches. As head of the Church, he had three priests, one a high bishop, at Newbridge, and a greenhouse was converted into a church. They all fasted at Easter and held a vigil from Good Friday noon until early on Easter Sunday; only the children were excused attendance, but the boy priest Hilau took part. Shamefully we hid in the shrubbery, and the governess, the children and I watched the household process to the church. The priests wore wonderful colourful robes, the bishop a cope and mitre of gold, bejewelled, even the boy Hilau wore silk robes with gold edging, and his round cap was gold cloth. The Royal Family were dressed in simple white robes like the household. The staff played pipes or beat small oval drums and chanted. This continued all throughout, and after a few hours became rather disturbing. The children told me the Emperor washed the servants' feet at the feast of the Passover.

The programme outlined the reason for the Emperor being in Bath, illustrated by clippings from newspapers of the period, supplied by Miss Hilary King, owner of the Little Theatre, Bath. She spoke of the friendship that developed between the Royal Family and her parents Consuela de Reys and Peter King, who then ran it as a News Theatre. They held special private showings of the latest newsreel at the cinema late at night. Sometimes they dined at Fairfield House, and as a child Hilary played with some of the children. She remembered attending a dinner party once and the noise she felt she made when eating off gold plates with gold knives.

Also interviewed was Mrs.Dorothy Smith, daughter-in-law of the late Sydney Smith, a well-known Bath businessman in the High Street, Bath, in the 1920s and 1930s, who also had a factory making high-class luggage. He became a close friend of the Emperor, supplying trunks, suitcases, and a

leather-bound and embossed copy of the Coptic Bible. He also helped to sell jewellery for the Emperor in difficult times; Dorothy read letters of thanks from the Emperor.

A number of elderly Bathonians spoke of their brief encounters with the Emperor in their childhood. The Mayor, Mr.Cliffe, explained how the freedom of the city was given to the Emperor and gifts were given in return. Mr.Edward Bartlett, Master of Ceremonies at Bath, showed one of the gifts and described it.

The remainder of the programme was devoted to the Rastafarian interest in the house, and their worship of the Emperor. The house was eventually given to the City of Bath, to be used for elderly citizens. It was for many years a home for 27 elderly residents. It is now used as a day centre three times a week, and on Fridays by the Black Elders, a club for ethnic minorities, all now citizens of Bath. Long may it continue.

It was on the whole a well-balanced programme. Young Shawn is to be congratulated on all the work he put in. I know the long hours he worked over months. Many people have written or stopped me in the street, to say how much they enjoyed it. Shawn is now teaching Media Studies at the West of England University (WEU).



Fairfield House – residence of the Emperor Selassie in Bath

THE KEN BIGGS ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE

Jacky Wibberley

It is amazing what a good lunch can do! Just over a year ago Douglas Bernhardt, an architect with an interest in the 19th century architect George Phillips Manners, took me to the Olive Tree and, as he wined and dined me, talked of the existence of the Ken Biggs Architectural Archive. He explained how Mr Biggs, who had recently acquired this extensive and important archive, and the Bath City Archivist were interested in having it comprehensively catalogued and (here no doubt my glass was quietly replenished) they were looking for someone to volunteer to do the work. This gastronomic charm offensive worked a treat and no sooner was lunch finished than I was taken to meet Colin Johnston, the City Archivist to discuss in more detail what the archive consisted of, what needed doing and how it should be done.

At its most tangible level the Ken Biggs Architectural Archive consists of an enormous quantity of numbered, brown paper packets which take up approximately 60 metres of shelving. In the packets are a mixture of plans, drawings, specifications, receipts, correspondence and various other papers relating to architectural work that has been done in and around the city of Bath since early in the 19th century and up to the 1980s. To complement the packets there are three typed indexes cataloguing the addresses and the packet numbers; however, although these are undoubtedly helpful, close inspection reveals their shortcomings. For example on numerous occasions the index information fails to correspond with the packet contents.

We alsofound that one number can refer to up to ten separate packets; this not only means that a search for a specific address could become very time consuming, but there is also the danger of a packet being overlooked. Further we concluded that the new catalogue would be of more value if it could be searched for more information than just the addresses. To facilitate this and to overcome the other problems we decided to give each packet its own identifying sub-number, thus for the packets numbered 68 we now have 68.01, 68.02 etc. Then to re-catalogue the contents of each packet onto a computer database in such a manner that the addresses, architects, dates and, where known, property owners are easily retrievable. Each database entry also indicates the nature of the document, thus one entry in packet 68.03 informs us that in 1902 the architect Mowbray Green drew plans for alterations and additions to Hill View, Entry Hill, Bath which was owned at the time by Mr.George Spears.

Once I had set up the database table and had begun to build up the information, a fascinating history of Bath, its surroundings and of Bath architects began to emerge. For example if we look at the architects it appears, with some exceptions, that they all belong to the same architectural practice which has undergone various over-lappings and name changes caused by the inevitabilities of the passage of time. Thus between 1826 and 1845 we have architect entries for George P.Manners, and

then between 1847 and 1864 it becomes Manners and Gill. In 1865 we have J.Elkington Gill alone, but quickly followed over the next thirty-five years by the rather confusing changing partnerships of Gill and Browne and Browne and Gill, which no doubt owes everything to J.Elkington Gill being followed in the practice by his son Wallace Gill.

The early years of the 20th century, between 1899 and 1906, saw the partnership of Gill and Morris and this was followed by Mowbray A.Green who actually first makes an entry in 1887. He then continues to dominate architect "field" until 1947, either as himself or as Mowbray Green and Partners or later on as Mowbray Green and Hollier. During the early years of the twentieth century the name J.S.Carpenter makes occasional appearances but between 1948 and 1951 we have the partnership of Carpenter and Beresford-Smith. This is followed by the name F.W.Beresford Smith on its own which continues up to the 1980s.

A good example of this changing practice at work comes in packet 85.02 which refers to Beacon Hill Schools. The earliest plans and drawings are by Manners and are dated 1838. These are followed by plans of additions by Browne and Gill in 1884 and 1890 and then further additions by Gill and Morris in 1891. Finally, in 1914 Mowbray Green produces plans for latrines to bring the school more up to date.

The two and a half thousand items that have been catalogued so far range over such diverse subjects as correspondence on the "petroleum filling stations" in the city in 1931 (packet 34.06), to a staggering number of packets devoted to war damage. From new housing estates in Weston (packet 21.01) to refurbishment of various domestic residences throughout the city. However some entries stand out either for their curiosity or for their particular historical value. Plans and correspondence relating to a scheme at the turn of the century to replace the existing Holburne Museum with an enormous and hideous hotel are an example of the former (packet 54.02). If it had gone ahead the vista down Pulteney Street would be a very different thing! Too late the original plans have also turned up for the Empire Hotel, as I understand that when the hotel was renovated into flats a few years ago no known plans existed, which deterred the developers from replacing the pinnacles (32.01).

Of historical interest is the closure of St. Michael's Burial Ground in Walcot Street in packet 52.03 and among the relevant papers I found a list of names that had been on the graves. This I gather provided a much-needed missing link for people doing family searches in Bath. Of perhaps greater historical significance is packet 67.01, which revealed over twenty plans of the Royal Mineral Hospital by Gill and Morris. Elsewhere some papers relating to Lansdown Chapel and Beckford Tower were found and these have now been seen by the Beckford Tower Trust, making a helpful contribution to their work (packet 25.02).

Undoubtedly the most important find so far is packet 8.01 on the Thermal Baths. This consists of well over a hundred plans and drawings of the Tepid Bath, the Cross Bath, the Hospital Baths, the Hot Bath, Kingston Baths, Hetling Pump House, King's and Queen's Baths and the Pump Room. The earliest dated drawing, 1826, is a site plan of the Hot Bath and its immediate surroundings while the latest, dated 1892, shows a street plan of central Bath, marking the various baths and all the pipes and conduits that run through Bath carrying the thermal waters. Even the quantity and flow of water is carefully detailed. Another, dated 1854, shows the Roman walls under Stall Street while others consist of various additions, alterations and elevations.

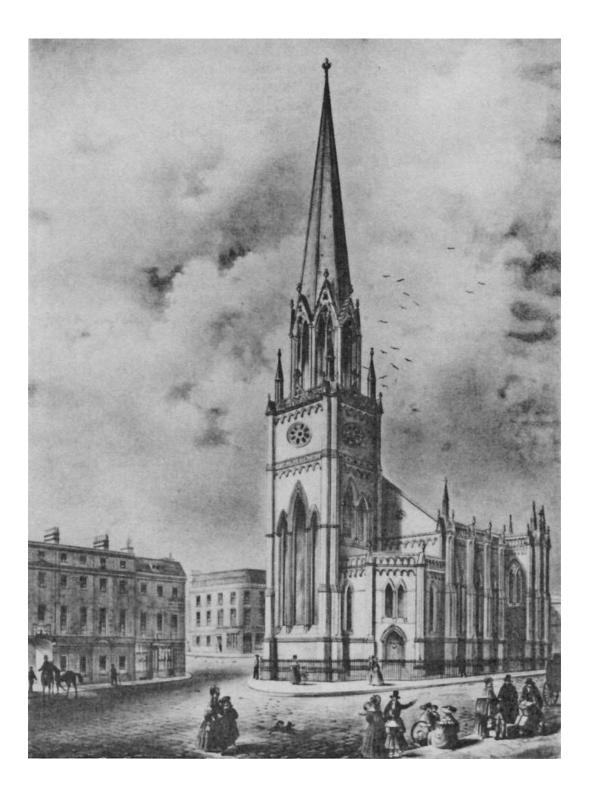
Often they appear as delightful water-colour drawings as for example a couple done by Manners of an elevation of the Tepid Bath. There are numerous plans and drawings of vapour baths, private baths, reclining baths, hot air baths and a "patent ventilating sun burner" which reflect the mid-Victorian

mind for ingenuity and taste for comfort and luxury. The majority of the plans are unfortunately unsigned but I think it is safe to attribute most of them to either Manners or Manners and Gill -- who have signed many of them. Some Hot Bath plans and King's and Queen's Bath plans are among the earlier dates and are clearly signed by Decimus Burton. There are also another couple of Hetling House plans which have been attributed to Palmer, circa 1804 -5.

One of the unsuspected pleasures of this project is the way in which one begins to develop a curious rapport with the different architects. I have found this happening to a certain extent with Manners and very particularly with Mowbray Green. Manners was City Architect and no doubt because of this he became involved in such prestigious work as the Roman Baths. He was also responsible for the present St.Michael's Church in Walcot Street and packet 52.04 contains thirty-five relevant plans and drawings, including some of the church and tower he replaced. The quality of the pen and ink and water-colour washes of these plans and drawings is superb and this is true of all his work such as plans for the alteration to Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon (packet 55.02).

Unfortunately, no doubt owing to the passage of time, the quantity of his work is limited; this is in direct contrast to Mowbray Green whose plans, letters, reports, specifications so far dominate the archive. The result is I have begun to feel I know him: unfailingly polite, if occasionally pithy in his comments, he belongs to a more leisured by-gone age where train travel takes precedence over the motor-car and where concern about "food" on an out-of-town trip can become the matter of prolonged correspondence! Even his failing health is shared as he writes apologetically to his various clients from his sick bed and it is but a year later that we have Mr.Hollier writing of his death in December 1945. Like Manners, Green is also City Architect and he works on numerous domestic and public buildings in the city but he also seems to have a particular interest in country churches; there are already nearly fifty entries. The sense I have of the man makes the fact that he and John Betjeman knew each other entirely appropriate (packet 14.02).

This article I hope has given some idea of the significance of the Ken Biggs Architectural Archive. It is an enormous project or "task" and although I have been working on it for a year there is still much to do. In the summer a student, Joanna McLaughlin, helped me and recently Sarah Kerr has volunteered to work on a regular basis. She, on her second day of work, was delighted to find a packet on Bathwick Estates which covers many of the properties around Pulteney Street and up Bathwick Hill (packet 86.01). We would very much like more volunteers and for anyone interested in Bath and its architecture this is a fascinating project.



St.Michael's Church, one of George Manners' best-known works

DID HOGARTH PAINT SUSANNA CHAPMAN?

Some notes on the Chapmans, Hogarth, and other artists

Susan Sloman

In May 1755 the Vestry of St.Mary Redcliffe resolved to commission William Hogarth (1697-1764) to paint a new altarpiece for the church. Hogarth visited the church, agreed to paint an altarpiece and a year later, on 8 July 1756, he was in Bristol supervising the installation of the three huge panels* representing the *Sealing of the Sepulchre, The Ascension* and *The Three Marys Visiting the Sepulchre.* Hogarth was, at this date, England's greatest living artist. He must have been well-known in the west of England through prints after his work and was probably known personally to the artist James Vertue (fl.1741-60) who lived in Bath. In 1763 the Bath printmaker William Hibbart cheekily "signed" the caricature he himself had produced, *The Knights of Baythe or, the One Headed Corporation*, "William O'Gaarth".

Nearly every biography of Hogarth mentions some link between the Bristol commission and the Rev.Dr.Walter Chapman of Bath (1711-1791). A number of authors have suggested that Hogarth stayed with the Chapmans while working on the paintings, but, as Michael Liversidge has pointed out, the panels were painted in London and Hogarth probably only spent a few days in the area at the time of the installation (*The altarpiece of St.Mary Redcliffe*, Bristol 1977, no page numbers). Ronald Paulson's major monograph on the artist refers to Walter Chapman "with whom Hogarth supposedly stayed", and says that the artist is said to have painted Chapman's wife Susanna, daughter of Robert Dingley (*Hogarth*, 3 vols., Cambridge 1991-93, vol.III, pp.204-05). According to Jenny Uglow's weighty *Hogarth*, *A Life and a World* (London 1997, p.577), "Hogarth stayed in Bristol, and in Bath with Walter Chapman, who was married to a noted beauty, the daughter of Robert Dingley...".

In 1878 the Bath and West Society held an art exhibition at their annual show, an exhibition that was accompanied by a published *Arts Catalogue* (copy in the Bath and West Archive at the University of Bath). Catalogue number 489 was described as a portrait of the second wife of the Rev.Dr.Walter Chapman, by William Hogarth, lent by J.W.Augustus Taylor. Since J.W.Augustus was apparently the grandfather of Ruth Young, it would appear that this painting was the one that was the subject of Ruth Young's small book, *Mrs.Chapman's Portrait, A Beauty of Bath of the 18th Century*, published in Bath in 1926, although Ruth Young describes the "Hogarth" as being of Susanna, Walter Chapman's first wife, not Anne, his second wife as suggested by the Bath and West catalogue. It is true that if Hogarth *had* painted a Mrs.Chapman it is more likely to have been Susanna, who died in 1758, than Anne, who Chapman married in 1763. By 1763 Hogarth had suffered a serious illness and was not painting portraits.

Ruth Young illustrates the supposed Hogarth portrait, a picture now lost or unaccounted for, as a frontispiece to her book and it is immediately clear, even from an old reproduction, that this portrait is not by Hogarth. It is a feigned oval, probably painted on a standard 30 x 25 inch canvas, of a straight-backed young woman adorned with large pearls. The rather severe lines of the features may be the result of retouching of the photograph or clumsy restoration of the portrait. If not by Hogarth, this picture could have been a companion piece to the portrait of Rev.Dr. Walter Chapman that was given to St.John's Hospital in 1924 by Ruth Young, and is still in the Hospital collection (illustrated in Jean Manco, *The Spirit of Care, The eight-hundred-year story of St John's Hospital, Bath,* Bath 1998, p.123). This latter picture does not seem ever to have been called a Hogarth, and bears no resemblance to his work. This leaves open the question as to whether there ever was a portrait or any other work by Hogarth, *written by himself: with Essays on his Life and Genius... ...,* London 1833, includes (p.407), under the heading "Collectors of Hogarth's Works" the single-line entry "Rev.Mr.*Chapman*", suggesting that at or before 1833 a clergyman by name of Chapman owned a picture by, or thought to be by, Hogarth.

There are, however, several verifiable links between the Chapmans and the Bath and London art world. Rebecca Chapman, daughter of Walter and Susanna Chapman, married the portrait painter and engraver Jonathan Spilsbury (1737-1812), brother of the print-maker and publisher John Spilsbury (1739-1769), inventor of the jigsaw puzzle. Jonathan Spilsbury was born in Worcester and served an apprenticeship in Birmingham, but lived and worked in London from 1758. In 1768 Spilsbury produced a mezzotint of *Mrs Richards*, after a portrait by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-88). Gainsborough lived and worked in Bath between 1758 and 1774. Mrs.Richards was the wife of the Bath violinist David Richards, a close friend of Thomas Linley, and a musician who is said to have played a significant part in the musical education of the young prodigy Thomas Linley junior. Richards was also described as a "regularly rude, rugged, rough rasper". Whether Spilsbury made his mezzotint of Mrs.Richards in Bath or London is not known, but he did also engrave a painting that belonged to Gainsborough, *Two Monks* (or *Two Friars*) attributed to Rubens. Again, it is not known whether this print was made in Bath or London, but the painting was certainly hanging in Gainsborough's Circus house in 1770.

The only real indication that Jonathan Spilsbury might have spent time in Bath is contained in the subscription list to a collection of poems quaintly described as *Poems, Attempted on various Occasions, by William Brimble, of Twerton, near Bath, Carpenter* and published "at the request of several of his Acquaintance" in 1765 (Piers Davies kindly drew my attention to this). Jonathan Spilsbury was one of the subscribers, presumably having met the Bath carpenter-poet while visiting the Chapmans. Rebecca Chapman and Jonathan Spilsbury's daughter Rebecca Maria Taylor (1777-1820), generally known as Maria Spilsbury, was also a painter, much admired in her lifetime, who exhibited no fewer than 47 works at the Royal Academy and 20 at the British Institution. She lived and worked in Ireland from 1813.

It is also worth mentioning that Gainsborough described the Rev.John Chapman, nephew of Walter Chapman, as "good friend" of his in 1773. In a letter of 24 November 1773 to the Rev.Dr.William Dodd, Gainsborough writes, "We had a stranger that gave us a strange sermon last Sunday at our chapel, by which I fear our good friend is not well at Weston, but I shall take a walk to see him tomorrow" (*The Letters of Thomas Gainsborough*, ed.Mary Woodall, London 1963, p.55, no.20). As Trevor Fawcett first pointed out, "our chapel" must be the Margaret Chapel, at whose opening



Dr.Dodd presided, and at which the Rector of Weston, John Chapman was presumably a regular preacher. Chapman was also an assistant preacher at the Octagon Chapel, Domestic Chaplain to the Earl of Westmoreland and later Vicar of Bathford, Master of St.John's Hospital and Prebend of Bristol Cathedral.

* The panels are on display at St.Nicholas' Church, Bristol, which is at present the Bristol Tourist Information Centre. The Centre will be moving in June, but the panels will remain, and may be viewed by the public. It would be best to telephone first. William Hogarth, "The Painter and his Pug" 1745, from the Tate Gallery

CORNWELL, WALCOT STREET

Allan Keevil

Hitherto, information concerning this spring has seemed rather vague and somewhat puzzling, so the present writer decided to take a more detailed look at the evidence available, in an attempt to clarify it. Some of the findings are set out in the following article. He wishes to acknowledge the valuable help he has received from Elizabeth Holland, from her studies both of the Chapman family and of the 1641 and 1685 Surveys of Bath, as well as from David McLaughlin, both by his personal comments and from his "Notes on the history of Ladymead House"¹, and also from Mike Chapman for his help in preparing the sketch-map.

The Site of the Cornwell

For certain details concerning the spring and its conduit, we are dependent upon the contemporary references in John Wood's writings, although even these present some difficulties, as will be seen. Only in the earliest published version of his work did he give a measured position of the site, stating that "Cornwell is a fine spring of water, brought into a sort of alcove, on the west side of Walcot Street, two hundred and thirty yards short of the north end of Walcot Church-yard", the latter point being, as he explained, the north-eastern extremity of the city bounds, as given in the royal charter of 1590². In translation, this document³ describes the perambulation, at that point, as "to the northern corner of the same [Walcot] cemetery" i.e. the vertex at the northern end of the still existing triangular area of the church ground, at the road junction⁴. Wood's measurement suggests that the site of "Cornwell" was approximately opposite the mark "WP St MP" (boundary point between Walcot and St.Michael's parishes), cut into the front face of the present "Ladymead House" (110-112 Walcot Street). The former "Cornwell House" stood on the southern (i.e. St.Michael's parish) part of the present "Ladymead House" site (below).

According to Wood, Walcot Street, at that time, was "a noble high strand" of about eighteen feet in breadth (about half the present width), which ran for about half a mile, almost parallel with the river, and although "not quite filled up with buildings...only Cornwell House now remains a specimen of the dwellings proper for it"⁵.

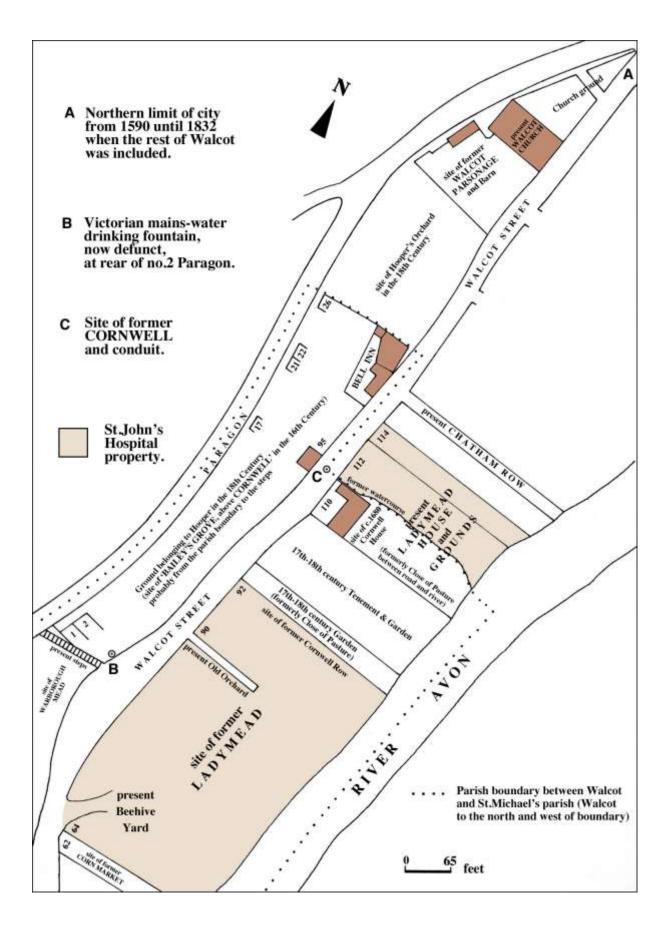
The Cornwell water-course

A water-course, apparently from the spring (now entirely culverted), once ran through the grounds of the present "Ladymead House" (from the position of the parish boundary mark), to the river. The present writer has been informed⁶ that builders, working on the "Ladymead House" premises in recent years, reported that the culvert still carries running, fresh water (not sewage or domestic drainage from the house). The water-course marked the boundary between the parishes of Walcot and St.Michael's.

Thirteenth century documents (below) show that St.Michael's parish, even then, was part of the city, a suburb of Bath outside the walled area, whereas Walcot parish had been wholly outside the city limits until 1590, when, as Wood explained⁷, "by the artifices" of William Sherston, who happened to be both mayor of the city and tenant of Barton Farm at the time, that part of Walcot which embraced the grounds of the farm (on which Walcot Church and its grounds were also sited) was then included within the bounds of the city. This created certain anomalies of jurisdiction, as Wood pointed out⁸. The rest of Walcot parish was not included within the city until the Bath Boundaries Act of 1832⁹.

Adjacent Properties

The boundary water-course also divides the Corporation property (site of the former c.1680 "Cornwell House"¹⁰) in St.Michael's parish, from a St.John's Hospital property (formerly a half-acre orchard), in Walcot parish, on the northern side¹¹. Both properties ran from Walcot Street to the river. In the late 17th century, both properties were in the occupation of the same tenant of the respective



CORNWELL AND ITS ENVIRONS

In order to assist in relating the old pattern of grounds to the pattern of today, one or two existing properties are indicated, with their present day street names and numbering. Walcot Street is shown at approximately its present day width and share lessees of St.John's Hospital and the Corporation¹². Deeds of both properties (below) describe them as being "near a certain well (or spring) called Cornwell".

By the early 18th century, there were also common lessees of the two properties (see reference to both properties in lease to Richard Codrington *et al.*, 30 March 1720)¹³. From 1735, Mr.James Hillhouse, merchant, of Bristol, held both "Cornwell House" in St.Michael's parish, from the Corporation, and the adjacent property, on the northern side of the water-course, in Walcot parish, from St.John's Hospital¹⁴. On 27 June 1743, the Corporation allowed "Mr.James Hillhouse to have a feather of water from *Cornwell* [water-course] to his house, *Cornwell House*, he paying 10s.6d. annual rent for the same"¹⁵.

There is an early 18th century oil painting (now in the Victoria Art Gallery) depicting the c.1680 "Cornwell House"¹⁶ and grounds (viewed from the river, looking west), together with the adjacent St.John's hospital property, the canalised water-course running between them, and a boundary wall surrounding the combined properties.

Possible remains of the Cornwell

In Wood's "enlarged and corrected" version of the **Essay**¹⁷, apparently in order to justify his reasoning concerning the meaning of the name, he quite mistakenly (see below) changed the spelling of "Cornwell" to "Carnwell", with an "a", and after explaining that "the water emerged from a spout in the back wall of an alcove", he stated that "a high cross or tower anciently surmounted the mouth of the spring", but that the sides and covering of the alcove had "recently" been removed in connection with road-widening there¹⁸.

In 1847 James Tunstall¹⁹ followed Wood's changed spelling ("Carnwell"), claiming that "the remains now exist opposite the Bladud's Head Inn, Walcot Street, and that "it [the conduit] was destroyed about 1740". In 1871 S.D.Major²⁰ followed Tunstall's spelling, date of destruction of the conduit, and positioning of the remains, but added that "the reservoir was not finally closed up till 3 October 1849". No other reference to this closure has been found in Council Minutes or in Bath Waterworks Committee Minute Book, No.2²¹. The "Bladud's Head" stood at what is now 90 Walcot Street²². The property is about eighty yards south of the position of the spring and conduit as described by Wood, so that both later writers appear to have been mistaken in their positioning of the "remains". Tunstall may have been confused with the "remains" of a quite separate "well" (in the modern sense) which had "been sunk and a pump fixed in Walcot Street" in 1738²³, and Major's "reservoir" may have been confused with one made, in 1744, in a garden in Walcot Street (south of the present "Ladymead House"), for containing water from the river²⁴. This one may have been closed up in 1849.

The 25 inch O.S.map of 1903 adds further confusion by marking the position of the now defunct, Victorian, mains-water drinking fountain in Walcot Street, at the rear of No.2 Paragon²⁶, as being "on site of CARN WELL" (sic). The O.S. had clearly been misinformed. S.D.Major²⁷ described the Victorian fountain as being "near" the site of the ancient conduit; actually, it is approximately 135 yards south of it.

Wood, quoting Hippocrates, "that...waters which break out of the ground direct east are the purest", explained that they were especially suitable for disorders of the eyes, for which they had been used, from time immemorial, "the water of Carnwell especially"²⁸. That the water of "Cornwell" (spelt "Carnwell" by Wood, from 1749) broke out of the ground directly eastward is also confirmed by Wood's measured positioning of the spring in Walcot Street, suggesting it was at the foot of the eastward-facing, and lowest, of the graduated slopes which descend from the high plateau of Lansdown, via Beacon Hill, to the river²⁹.

Much of the present western side of Walcot Street (considerably widened on that side from Wood's eighteen foot width of 1743 - above), including the vicinity of the site of "Cornwell", is on the one hundred foot contour, and within one hundred yards of the river. Wood explained that, in the course of road-widening there (apparently between c.1743 and 1749), the workmen, after dismantling the conduit, penetrated the adjoining banks, for additional road-width, and in so doing "met with huge blocks of wrought stone as the strongest testimonies of a publick [sic] structure once existing in that situation"³⁰. The implication seems to be that they had unearthed the remains of a Roman building associated with the spring. Unfortunately no other reference to it has been found.

Guidott and the Cornwell

In the 1670s, Dr Thomas Guidott, physician at Bath, examined (*inter alia*) the water of a number of cold springs of the Bath area³¹. According to Wood, he likened the water of "Cornwell" to that of "Frogs Well" (similarly low-lying, and "only seven hundred feet north of the main hot spring" [i.e. in Frog Lane, now New Bond Street]) and to that of Shockerwick well³². The waters of all three were found "to be of the acid kind, and able to curdle milk, besides being esteemed chiefly for their efficacy in the cure of inflammation of the eyes"³³.

"Carnwell" or Cornwell?

Wood's change of spelling to "Carnwell" in his so-called "enlarged and corrected" version of the **Essay**, 1749 (and subsequent editions), seems to have stemmed from his belief that the first syllable was the British word "carn" (now spelt "cairn"), and that the original name of Beacon Hill was "Carn Hill", from a cairn erected on its summit in earlier times, "while its original name is retained in a fountain called Carnwell to the eastward"³⁴. In fact, the "fountain" (or spring) was called "Cornwell" (see below), and Wood's own description of its site (above) shows that it lay south-east of Beacon Hill.

As if to add weight to his claim regarding the earlier name for Beacon Hill, Wood pointed out that, to the westward of it, "and within musket shot of the centre of the mount" was a tract of land called "Carn Hills"³⁵. This is somewhat misleading. He evidently referred to a group of fields actually called Cran Hill(s)"³⁶ which ran up from Weston Road to the summit edge of Lansdown, above the present Kingswood School. That summit edge appears to be the Saxon landmark "Crawaen Hylle" ("Crow Hill") - later corrupted to "Cran Hill" - in the Saxon bounds of the four hides of Charlcombe, as set out in William I's charter granting this manor to Bishop Gyso³⁷.

Contrary to Wood's change of spelling to "Carnwell" in 1749, the name "Cornwell" (or "Cornewell") appears with an "o" not an "a", in every one of numerous extant documents concerning this spring (the use of "well" being from the West Midlands form of the Anglo-Saxon "waella", meaning both "spring" and "stream"³⁸). These documents range in date from the 12th to the 19th century³⁹. Not once, in any of the documents throughout the centuries is the word spelt with an "a", so Wood, and those who have subsequently copied his 1749 spelling are totally mistaken.

It is difficult to be certain of the meaning of "corn" in "Cornwell". Eilert Ekwall⁴⁰ suggested that "corn" in a good many names may be a metathesised form of "Cron", "Cran". The metathesised form is made probable by the actual use in O.E. of "Cornoc" for "Cranoc" (a crane), so that both "Cornwell" and "Cranwell", Ekwall suggested, would be the names of springs frequented by cranes⁴¹ - a bird which was apparently once common in England. Most subsequent writers on the matter have followed Ekwall's explanation, including the most recent⁴². However, Allen Mawer⁴³ cautioned that no independent form "Cron" or "Corn" has been found in O.E., neither is there an example of a "Corn-" name, in which there are signs of alternation between "Corn" and "Cran" such as we should expect, if they were really "crane" names. Some other explanation for the name "Cornwell" at Bath seems to be required.

One possibility is to be found in A.H.Smith⁴⁴ who shows that "Cornford" was really "Quern-ford" (ford by a mill) and that the change from "quern" to "corn" was not uncommon. Could "Cornwell" once have been a mill-stream? There is also the possibility that the "Corn" part of the name was of British (i.e. Celtic) rather than O.E. (or Saxon) origin. In Welsh "corn" means "horn". "Corn Du" ("Dark Horn") is the name of a high peak in the Brecon Beacons, from its somewhat horn-like appearance in silhouette. The hill immediately above Walcot Street (shown as a back-drop in the oil painting of "Cornwell House" - above) also has a somewhat horn-like outline, as has Beacon Hill above it (viewed from the south-east). Is it possible that one or the other carried the "Corn" name in British times? Alternatively, was the shape of the spring itself horn-like? The incoming Anglo-Saxons sometimes adopted the British name of a topographical feature as a proper noun, in combination with their own topographical word, as in the case of the River Avon ("Afene streame") or Penn Hill (at Weston), and Lyn Brook (Lyncombe and Widcombe). Thus, similarly, it is possible that the spring, either because of its shape, or because it rose at the foot of a horn-like hill, could be called in O.E. "Corne-well". It remains a matter of conjecture.

Various Properties by the Cornwell

East. Five adjacent riverside grounds on the eastern side of Walcot Street are described in documents of various periods (among those mentioned above), as "lying near a certain well (or spring) called Cornwell". From the south, these were:

- 1. The former St.John's Hospital riverside meadow (stretching along the roadside between the present 64 and 92 Walcot Street) called "Ladymead"⁴⁵,
- 2. A garden⁴⁶ once belonging to the Hart (Furman's Repertory, 1665, Corporation lease, 3 April 1734, to William Chapman),
- 3. A messuage and garden⁴⁷,
- 4. "Cornwell House" (south part of Ladymead House) and grounds⁴⁸, also once belonging to the Hart
 - all four properties (three of them apparently once belonging to the Priory) being in St.Michael's parish;
- 5. An half-acre of St.John's property (112-114 Walcot Street), in Walcot Parish⁴⁹.

All five adjacent grounds ran down from Walcot Street to the river. In the 16th and 17th centuries, they were generally held by leading Bath citizens, who were members of the Corporation. In 1585, the ground on which "Cornwell House" was later built, and the next ground but one to the south, were described as "two closes of pasture in Walcot Street, near Cornwell" and were in the possession of John Chapman (as lessee of the Corporation); in 1623, the latter's grandson, Richard Chapman, held them⁵⁰. Both men were aldermen and became mayors of Bath; both also held "The Hart" in Stall Street⁵¹.

West. A Priory rental of the city of $1503/4^{52}$, in the section headed "without the North Gate" (i.e. in St.Michael's parish), shows that "John Bird holds a meadow above Cornwell ["*desuper Cornewell*"], at an annual rent of 6s.8d". This meadow apparently lay on the western side of Walcot Street (thus "above the spring"). Similarly, in 1526, the prior granted⁵³ "to John Wattes and wife, Joan, two closes of meadow and pasture, one adjacent the barn of the parsonage of Walcot and the other called Bailly's Grove, which lies above Cornwell [probably the one held by Bird in 1503/4], without the Northgate, and within the suburbs of Bath" (i.e. in St.Michael's parish). These grounds seem to be identifiable with those held there by the Hooper family in the 18th century⁵⁴. They extended southwards from the Walcot Church grounds (within which stood the parsonage and its barn) to the former "Warborough

Mead", and lay between the lines of Walcot Street and the present Paragon roadway - the former "Bailly's Grove...above Cornwell" probably corresponding to the part south of the present Bell Inn.

Other Early References

The earliest reference to "Cornwell" is in a St.John's Hospital deed of c.1189-1223⁵⁵, when Peter de Bath, son of David, Chaplain of Bath, made a grant "of his land of Cornwell" (which David had bought of John, son of James, son of Farhem of Bristol), to be held of the chief lord of the city, as a free marriage portion, to Nicholas of Hampton (i.e. Bathampton), when he married Cecily, Peter's niece, the land to revert to the grantor if she died without heirs, saving a rent of 12d. to Nicholas. It is impossible to identify this land with any certainty, but the fact that the deed is among those of St.John's Hospital indicates that it became Hospital property. There is a possible later reference to the family, if not the ground, on 22 May 1304, when John de Hampton bequeathed his "tenement in the suburb of Bath" (St.Michael's parish) to his son, Nicholas, after the death of Nicholas's mother⁵⁶. In c.1223-61, Juliana, daughter of John James (sic) of Bristol (clearly the same man from whom David, the Chaplain of Bath, had purchased a little earlier his "land of Cornwelle", granted "a messuage in the suburb of Bath" (i.e. in St.Michael's parish), "which is by the spring called Cornwelle" to Laurence de Laceles "for his homage and service...to be held of the king in chief by the service which she and her ancestors have been accustomed to do, viz., by rendering to the king $20^{1}/2d$, at Hockday for all service and demands"⁵⁷.

After this, but still in the period c.1223-1261, the same Juliana granted "in free alms" to the Master and brethren of St.John's Hospital what appears to be the same property, to be held of the king in chief etc., as above⁵⁸. If so, Laurence de Laceles probably continued to hold the property as a tenant of St.John's Hospital, which had been granted the freehold, by Juliana. The "messuage" almost certainly included land, and again it is impossible to identify it with certainty, but it may have referred to the St.John's Hospital ground of "Ladymead". If so, the fact that the freehold had been granted to St.John's Hospital by the lady Juliana may have accounted for its name.

Yet another medieval deed referring to "Cornwell" is a grant by Prior Thomas on 11 November 1290, to Thomas Noy and Agnes, his wife, of "a house with a curtilage in Walcote, *juxta* [near] Cornwell, the site whereof pertains to the kitchen of Bath"⁵⁹. The grant may refer to the property in Walcot (where Chatham Row now stands), on the north side of the Hospital ground there, although 18th century deeds of it do not mention its proximity to Cornwell. However, it is possible that certain words are missing from the description "in Walcote", and that "in Walcote Street" or "in the street which leads towards Walecote" is intended (thus referring to a property in St.Michael's parish).

Conclusion

Although not all the questions concerning this spring have been resolved, some clarification of the various references to it has been possible, and a number of interesting facts have emerged. Thanks to the measured description given in the earliest published version (1743) of Wood's **Essay**, the site of the spring (and its conduit) can now be pin-pointed with some certainty, a position confirmed by several other pieces of circumstantial evidence. The meaning of the first syllable of "Cornwell" is still not clear, but at least its correct form, with an "o", has been established. Among other matters, it has also been shown that the water of Cornwell was valued as an eye-salve; that its stream served as a boundary water-course (marking part of the northern limits of the city, before 1590); and its spring used as a locality reference, since at least the 12th century, to an area of grounds (ranging from a half to four acres in size, and amounting to about eight acres altogether), lying beside Walcot Street, (all now developed with buildings), and formerly variously held by people of some standing in the community. The spring had clearly always been a water source of considerable importance, and Wood's reference to the unearthing of "huge blocks of wrought stone" (Roman work?), in close proximity to it, is particularly intriguing.

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BRO = B&NES Record Office. SRO = Somerset Record Office. SRS = Somerset Record Society (publication)

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